

**Washington, DC**-Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) today introduced bipartisan legislation as an original cosponsor making June *National Internet Safety Month*, and bringing attention to the work law enforcement is doing to crack down on child predators, identity theft and other cyber crime. Rodriguez introduced the legislation following a discussion he held at Rawlinson Middle School in San Antonio with a Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) expert, a San Antonio Police Department officer, educators and students from the middle school several weeks ago.

"As our schools get out and children spend more time home alone, having a *National Internet Safety Month* brings attention to the dangers many people are faced with when they use the Internet," said Rodriguez. "Bringing attention to safe use of computers online will help to stop child predators, identity thieves and other cyber crime, which so often takes place when people feel the most safe-behind the walls of their own homes."

93% of children aged 12 to 17 say they use the Internet on a regular basis, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. They are using the Internet for research, education, communicating with friends and other entertainment.

The Federal Trade Commission in coordination with several other Federal Agencies, maintains Onguard Online, a web-based resource to educate Americans about Internet Safety.

"It is important to remember that although the Internet can open new doors to information it can also be a dangerous place when someone is looking to cause harm from another computer," continued Rodriguez.

Additionally, Congressman Rodriguez's Office has created a tip sheet to be offered on his web site for parents, educators and others to allow for better protection of children, seniors and ourselves from cyber criminals.

Below are some of the tips offered:

1. Don't share your last name, phone number, address, birthday, or other personal information without a parent's permission.
  2. Tell your parents right away if you come across information or a person online that makes you scared or nervous.
  3. Check with your parents before emailing or posting a picture on a website
  4. Never meet an online friend in person without talking to a parent first.
  5. Show your parents which websites you enjoy visiting and tell them about any strangers you meet online.
  6. Check out websites like [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov), [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov), and [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov) for other ways you can protect yourself.
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7. Trust your instincts! If something doesn't seem right or makes you feel uncomfortable, tell your parents.

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*Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) serves as a Member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee. For more information about Rodriguez, see his website at <http://rodriguez.house.gov/>.*